

Message

From: Kinman, Linda [kinman@dmww.com]
Sent: 5/17/2013 2:11:05 PM
To: Brooks, Karl [brooks.karl@epa.gov]; Flournoy, Karen [Flournoy.Karen@epa.gov]
CC: Stowe, Bill [stowe@dmww.com]; Gipp, Chuck [chuck.gipp@dnr.iowa.gov]; agri@idals.state.ia.us; Kahler, Amy [kahler@dmww.com]; Stoner, Nancy [Stoner.Nancy@epa.gov]
Subject: Request for meeting

Iowa is experiencing record levels of nitrates this spring (and well above the EPA standard of 10 mg/l), with the Raccoon River reaching 24.32 mg/l, the Des Moines River 18.53 mg/l, and our infiltration gallery usually our best source of blending water was at 10.57 mg/l. With both the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers reaching record levels concurrently Des Moines Water Works had to re-engage its nitrate removal facility.

This is not a phenomenon to central Iowa. Cedar Rapids is also experiencing record nitrate levels. Many small drinking water systems in Iowa only monitor nitrates quarterly. This sets up a potential threat (based on EPA health effects of nitrates) to public health in that systems may be missing high levels of nitrates in their drinking water.

There is no evidence that nitrate load or concentration trends are decreasing. In addition to nitrates, high levels of ammonia and phosphorus, algae blooms, and increasing levels of bacteria are all deteriorating Iowa waters. We therefore believe it is time for EPA, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and DMWW to have an open honest conversation that will lead to specific actions to better protect public health and improve water sources in Iowa. We invite you to Des Moines for this conversation. Please provide 2-3 dates you could be available for a meeting.

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